



## SB 350 Study: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

*Regional market participation would have positive outcomes for the environment, including easing pressure on land and water use, and reducing emissions. The conclusions show that by 2030, a regional energy market would:*

- Spur investments in low-cost renewable energy generation, including new wind and solar resources to meet California's Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS.)
- Better optimize and integrate renewables into the system, allowing western states to meet their individual renewable goals, including California's 50-percent RPS target.
- Mitigate the impacts of the electricity sector on land and sensitive habitat. With improved planning, land used for new wind and solar plants would be reduced by up to 73,100 acres in California.
- Scale back the power sector's use of California water resources by decreasing fossil fuel use for electricity production, up to 9.7 percent statewide.
- Reduce groundwater extraction for construction and operation of power plants.
- Reduce emissions of critical air pollutants in the state, including in economically disadvantaged communities.

[Click here](#) to go to the study

*California Senate Bill 350, passed in 2015, directed the ISO to study the impacts of a regional western US grid. The study, conducted by leading experts, found that a western states energy market will yield significant environmental and economic benefits to California and the West, including cost savings to ratepayers, reduced air pollution, new jobs, market efficiencies and improved transmission planning.*

